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# The Hongkong Telegraph

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VOL. II NO. 354

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 1947.

Price 20 Cents

## Difficulties Beset Formation Of French Cabinet

Paris, Nov. 23.—The formation of a new French Government was not in sight late tonight after over 24 hours of almost uninterrupted negotiations between the Prime Minister, M. Robert Schuman, and the leaders of the parties which voted for him yesterday.

The Socialists, who had prevented a solution last night by having the former Premier, M. Paul Reynaud, eliminated from the list of suggested Cabinet Ministers, today created another deadlock by objecting to the Premier's choice for the post of Finance Minister of M. Rene Mayer, wartime Minister in General Charles de Gaulle's Government.

Like M. Reynaud, M. Mayer stands for greater freedom from State control in economic matters and also insists on stabilising prices and wages at the level which the Socialists considered too low.

The veteran Socialist leader, M. Leon Blum, was brought in on two occasions today in an effort to modify the Socialist obduracy. Lobby reports tonight expected the negotiations to continue for many hours.

Meanwhile, unofficial reports tonight gave the likely composition of M. Schuman's Cabinet as follows:

Vice-Premier: M. Leon Blum, Socialist; Labour: M. Daniel Mayer, Socialist; Finance: M. Wilfrid Baumgartner, non-party and high Civil Servant; Foreign Affairs: M. Georges Bidault, Popular Republican; National Defence: M. Andre Maréchal, Radical; Justice: M. Andre Marie, Radical; Interior: M. Paul Ramadier, Socialist and outgoing Premier; Public Works: M. Jules Moch, Socialist; Production: M. Robert Lacroix, Socialist.

Room was to be found for an Independent Conservative and for several Under-Secretaries of State, it was believed.

The list was entirely unofficial and based on tentative proposals of the Prime Minister only, but political observers considered it significant as indicating a wish to put the Government in the saddle quickly to deal with the general unrest sweeping the country.

M. Schuman was reported to have been consulting political leaders practically without a break since 7.00 a.m. yesterday, retiring only two and a half hours early today.

**STOP-GAP CABINET**  
M. Robert Schuman, was believed tonight to be concentrating on the hasty putting-together of a "stop-gap" Cabinet.

With the country threatened by a general strike, its first task would be to try to ease the troubled social conditions, leaving financial and economic reconstruction for later.

M. Schuman, who, when he undertook the task of Cabinet-making 24-hours ago, had hoped for a broad coalition, is faced with at present uncompromising stands by both the Right and the Left wings of Parliament.

M. Schuman has been consulting political leaders practically nonstop since yesterday evening with a break

of only two and a half hours early today. He met difficulties from both ends. The Socialists were adamant on the principle of Government control of national economy, and refused to give M. Paul Reynaud, the Independent Conservative and French Premier in June 1940, slated for the Minister of Finance and National Economy, the full powers over the country's finances and economic resources which he demanded.

The Radicals and Independent Conservatives want a much larger measure of economic freedom than exists at present.

The Independent Conservatives indicated that they might be compelled to withdraw their support if M. Reynaud's exclusion were maintained. A Radical delegation told M. Schuman the Radicals would not support him in the Assembly if under Socialist pressure he retreated from the position of greater liberalism in economic affairs outlined in his statement to the Assembly yesterday.

**REYNAUD'S LETTER**  
Today M. Reynaud handed M. Schuman a letter in which he practically withdrew from the proposed ministerial team. "I consider that you are not bound by any undertaking as far as I am concerned and that you ought to pursue the task that Parliament has invited you to undertake by imposing the majority," he wrote.

The letter disclosed that the powers with which it was proposed to invest him were wide. "You were good enough to invite me to take charge of both the finances and the economic affairs of the country and to exercise the right of control over the other economic ministries," M. Reynaud said.

He explained his withdrawal by saying: "The interests of the country require that this (Cabinet) crisis which has already lasted too long be resolved at once to safeguard the Republic's order."

The surprise development of M. Reynaud's withdrawal was regarded in political circles as a triumph of the Socialist plans over the Radical and moderate partisans of more economic freedom. M. Reynaud spent

20 minutes this morning with M. Schuman and left the Finance Ministry with a smile.

M. Schuman, a Popular Republican and himself a partisan of economic freedom, only consented to continue his Cabinet-making under extreme pressure from the President of the Republic and in view of the threat to public order created by the Communist inspired strikes in key industries.

### GENERAL STRIKE FEARS

Fears of a general strike in France became more acute today, as with the shutting down of two more railway stations in Paris, the Invalides and Montparnasse, all railway traffic out of the capital was throttled.

The only exceptions were the Gare De L'Est, where only Suburban traffic was halted, and the Gare Du Nord, where a few express trains left on time.

So far cross channel services have not been affected, but there were no forecasts beyond today.

No electric trains left Saint Nazaire and the big suburban service which normally provides trains every few minutes for city workers, was suspended, with steam train traffic considerably reduced.

The coal mining industry is almost at a standstill, with the mines in the Pas de Calais, Moselle, Lorraine, Loire being totally blanketed by strikes.

The miners of the Carmaux Basin (Southwestern France) today voted a walkout by a show of hands in the face of a protest by the local group of the non-Communist minority of the French Labour Confederation, which has been campaigning for a secret ballot on strike votes.

The scattered strikes of dockers and seamen are expected to spread to the whole country tomorrow after the strike votes tonight; postal workers in Marseilles struck today and it was feared the Paris postal workers and perhaps switchboard operators would come out after a vote to be taken tomorrow. The drivers of Paris postal vans came out yesterday.

In Marseilles, in the grip of a strike of nearly all its 130,000 workers for a week past, troops continued to work in round the clock shifts unloading perishable food.

The Municipal authorities today took steps to start evacuating by air some of the 15,000 travellers stranded in the city by rail and shipping stoppages.—Reuter.

### 400-PASSENGER PLANE IN AIR

San Diego, California, Nov. 23.—The world's largest plane, a 400-passenger transport built by the Consolidated Vultee Aircraft Corporation of the United States Army Air Force, made its first test flight today.

Top thousand people lined Lindbergh Field here to watch the test and a thousand more crowded the surrounding hills and house-tops. The transport, known as XC-99 has six pusher-type engines and weighs 132 tons. It carries a crew of nine.—Reuter.

### Natives Rounded Up In Madagascar

Paris, Nov. 23.—Five-hundred people were rounded up by the French police last night in Tananarive and Majunga, Madagascar, according to an Agency France Presse report today. The report stated the operation was carried out to forestall a native uprising in the two towns. Official quarters in Paris declared today they had so far received no information.

Meanwhile, in Saigon 20 people were injured in the European quarter when grenades were thrown into the main street, the same agency reported from Saigon today.—Reuter.

## Move To Restore Leopold To Belgian Throne

Brussels, Nov. 23.—Supporters of King Leopold III voted today to launch an active campaign for the return of the exiled Belgian monarch.

A National Congress attended by several members of the Belgian Cabinet and led by Albert de Vleeschauwer, former Minister of Colonies, asked the Belgian Regent Prince Charles to take the initiative in seeking Leopold's return. Leopold, who surrendered the Belgian armies to the Germans in 1940, was barred by Parliament from returning to the country in 1945. He is living in Switzerland.

If appeals to the government fail, the Congress voted, Leopold's supporters will demand a national plebiscite on the question of his return.—Associated Press.

## U.S. INSISTS ON LEGALITY OF PALESTINE PARTITION

Lake Success, Nov. 23.—Mr Herschel Johnson of the United States, told the Palestine Committee of the United Nations here yesterday that his Government had no doubt about the legal right of the United Nations to partition the Holy Land.

## MARSHALL PLAN FOR FAR EAST

### Scant Possibility

Baguio, Nov. 23.—The scant possibility of a Marshall plan for Asia emerging from the United Nations Economic Commission for Asia (EOAFA) conference opening on Monday was foreseen today by Mr T. F. Tsiang, China's delegate to the Security Council, who will preside as chairman over the current meeting.

"If you want a Marshall plan for Asia, you must first ask Mr Marshall," Tsiang said. He added it was doubtful that any delegate would make such a proposal. He said he expected Russian co-operation during the meeting because he did not see how the Commission could make any recommendations injurious to the Soviet Union.

Mr Tsiang said, in his opinion, that at this stage of preparations for economic recovery, it would not make too much difference whether Korea and Japan were considered in short term plans. But, he declared, in long range planning consideration of Korea and Japan must be co-ordinated with the rest of Asia's economy.

Recommendations at the present meeting will be sent to the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations for approval. Philippine President Manuel Roxas, accompanied by US Ambassador Emmet O'Neal, arrived at Baguio this afternoon by car after an unpublished trip through Central Luzon to San Francisco, La Union, on board a Manila Railroad special train.

President Roxas will formally open the session of ECAFA tomorrow afternoon. Then Assistant Secretary David Owen of the United Nations will raise the UN flag at Baguio's glistening mansion house.—Associated Press.

### New Delhi Strife

New Delhi, Nov. 23.—Stabbings again occurred here tonight when news spread of a clash between Hindu and Sikh refugees attempting to take possession of a vacant, Moslem house.

Five refugees were injured and a Moslem doctor was among those stabbed.

Troops are tonight patrolling Old Delhi, and a dawn to dusk curfew for three nights has been imposed by the military authorities.—Reuter.

### Landmine Unearthed

Salonika, Greece, Nov. 23.—A landmine was uncovered today on the road from the railway station to Kiliris, 30-kilometres south of Greece's northern border shortly before the appearance of M. Themistocles Sophoulis, the Prime Minister, escorted by armoured cars.

M. Sophoulis was to visit the local garrison by a destroyer tonight for Alexandroupolis in Thrace.—Reuter.

## Persia Rejects Russian Protest

### OIL RIGHTS ISSUE

Tehran, Nov. 23.—The Persian Cabinet today discussed a draft reply by the Premier, Ghassem Sultaneh, to the Soviet protest note warning the Persian Government of "grave consequences" which might follow the rejection by the Persian Parliament of the agreement granting North Persian oil rights to Russia. It is understood in quarters close to the Premier that the Persian Government's reply refutes five main points of the Soviet note.

The five Soviet allegations and the Persian draft replies are understood to be as follows:

1. The Soviet charge that the Premier delayed for one year the presentation of the oil agreement to Parliament. There was no Parliament in existence then, but as soon as it was convened the oil agreement was immediately considered.

2. The Premier presented a "report" to Parliament on the Soviet oil negotiations instead of presenting the legislation by the Persian Government. The reply says that in view of the law of December 1944 prohibiting Persian Government officials from oil negotiations with foreign powers, Ghassem was not in a position to present the legislation to Parliament.

3. The Soviet accusation of "bribe" discrimination against the Soviet Union in view of the still existing British oil concession in South Persia, was rejected by the Persian Government. The reply insists that the South Persian concession was granted when Persia was without a constitution and therefore, there was no possibility of consulting the Persian people.

4. The reply says the assertion in the Soviet note that the Shah had sanctioned the oil agreement was unfounded. The Shah, according to the constitution, only verbally consented to his Government's decision.

5. The reply strongly denies the Soviet allegation that Ghassem influenced Parliament to declare the exchange of letters between him and the Soviet Ambassador null and void. On the contrary, the reply says, Ghassem honoured his undertaking to the very last but the Deputies could not agree because of the 1944 law prohibiting oil negotiations.—Reuter.

### Relieving Force Slowed Down

New Delhi, Nov. 23.—The Indian Defence Ministry stated tonight that Indian troops were meeting increased opposition, slowing down their advance towards Kolti Jammu, where the Kashmir State garrison has been besieged for the past 20 days.

The Defence Ministry said that after relieving the State force garrisons at Poonch, Indian Army troops are now consolidating their position in the area and patrolling continues. Raiders in some strength again attacked the Indian Army positions in the Uri area. The attack was repulsed and the raiders suffered heavy casualties.

Aircraft of the Royal Indian Air Force attacked the raiders' positions with good results in the vicinity of Mirpur and Hothi.—Reuter.

## Molotov Said Resigned To Failure Of Big 4 Talks

London, Nov. 23.—Mr Vyacheslav Molotov, the Soviet Foreign Minister, arrived in London by air this afternoon for the Council of Foreign Ministers which opens here on Tuesday.

He spent many hours conferring with Soviet military headquarters on his way through Berlin during the weekend, sources close to the Soviet authorities said tonight.

Among the subjects discussed, they said, were the possible consequences of a negative outcome to the Ministers' talks. Particular attention was said to have been given to the possibility of withdrawing the Soviet representative to the Allied Control Council—under certain unspecified circumstances.

Mr Molotov and his large party of advisers were said not to have left Berlin "resigned" to the conference's failure but "giving indications that they had not given up hope that differences over the future of Germany and Austria might yet be settled by a compromise."

## POPE'S EMOTIONAL APPEAL

London, Nov. 23.—Pope Pius XII, broadcasting over the Vatican Radio tonight to the United States for the opening of the "Food for Europe" campaign there, declared that the Americans were the "vanguard of the army of Christian charity."

The Pope said: "Another winter is approaching, relentless, promising to make a wide breach through ruined shelterless tenements in hundreds of cities in Europe and the East, opening the way for death to follow fast on famine and exposure."

"But now there stands Christian charity rising to the full stature of its nobility to block the path and thousands of doomed victims freed from hopeless terror will have to thank God for the spirit which unites all men."

"Under the tireless leadership of a largehearted hierarchy, you beloved sons and daughters of America are in the vanguard of Christian charity."

### "DIVINE BOUNTY"

The Pope added: "The generous response that you will make to an appeal of your Bishops for those who are living in destitution and hunger and whose future is darkened by the ghastly shadow of disease of the body and soul, will lift your souls from the common course of grateful acknowledgment of God's gift to the holy initiation of that divine bounty which has enriched you with so many blessings."

"You have been acquainted with the appalling conditions of men, women and children, guiltless from the cruel aftermath of war."

"We turn our eyes towards you in the hope that you will free them from their hopelessness."

"But we would tell you how consoled and grateful we are for the bounteous and never failing assistance which you have given us for our crusade of worldwide charity. Your sacrifices make that charity possible. As a pledge of God's eternal reward and a token of our affectionate and abiding gratitude, we impart to all the faithful, the religious, the clergy and the sacred hierarchy of the United States an apostolic benediction."—Reuter.

## Danger Of Reds' Fifth Column

Galway, Eire, Nov. 23.—The Communist armies on the borders of Italy and the Communist fifth-column parties within Italy and France represent a grave danger even to the person of the Pope, declared Dr Michael Browne, Roman Catholic Bishop of Galway, today.

He was speaking on his return to Galway from a visit to the Pope. Pledged to world revolution, the Communists were trying to Italy and France to bar the recovery of these countries, by strikes, violence and disturbances of all kinds, he said.

They had money and arms and had trained active leaders in the techniques to mob violence and intimidation.

If the Communists got control of France, Russia would be within invasion distance of Ireland. Eire knew Russia's opinion of her which Soviet representatives had often expressed in opposing her admission to the United Nations.

Eire's position would then be that of Italy today which had on its border a Communist country. Yugoslavia, with a huge standing army. Roman Catholics could not be complacent about the danger which threatened Rome and the person of the Pope.—Reuter.

### EDITORIAL

## Hongkong Is Cut Off

THE dictatorial tone of American rule in occupied Japan has manifested itself in a number of directions, sometimes to the embarrassment of the Allied Powers who have been made to understand more than once that they share in the military occupation of Japan by the grace of General MacArthur, and that so far as administration is concerned, they do not exist. In some respects this one-sided arrangement has worked with reasonable success—for example the rapid mental purging of a nation enslaved to militarism and Emperor-worship. The Japanese, and everybody else living within the country are still being governed by SCAP Directives, some of which have repercussions beyond Japan's island boundaries. One is the decree that only civil aircraft may carry air mail, from overseas into Japan. This may not appear to be unreasonable but it happens to affect Hongkong adversely. The only civil air lines at the present operating into Japan are American, whose mail rates are such that we could expect a howl of protest if the postal authorities attempted to impose them. Moreover payment would have to be made in gold dollars which would mean a further drain on the Colony's limited official exchange. The alternative, until what time a British civil air service can be inaugurated, is the RAF, but SCAP refuses to entertain the idea of RAF machines carrying

civil mail, so that Hongkong continues to have no lines of communication with Japan, except prohibitive cost. The report that two executive officers of BOAC have now been discussing with SCAP the possibilities of extending the "Speedbird" service to Japan, and the announcement that a test survey flight is to be made this week to Iwakuni, are welcome, and offer grounds for hope that by the New Year BOAC will be operating between Hongkong and Japan with a service that will open communications to the Colony's businessmen. There are grounds for believing that SCAP will not place too much obstruction in the way of British civil aviation interests, although it is fairly certain MacArthur's executive officers will impose restrictions on initial operations. It is of considerable importance to Hongkong that she should possess rapid methods of communication with Japan. We have sent commercial representatives to Tokyo to try and reopen trade, and their not easy task is rendered the more difficult if they cannot exchange information with their Hongkong offices. And if the BOAC representatives return with an agreement to start operations, we shall expect British aviation to exert its biggest efforts rapidly to inaugurate an air mail service which will assist traders, both here at home and in other parts of the Commonwealth, to regain ground which must have been lost through absence of communications.



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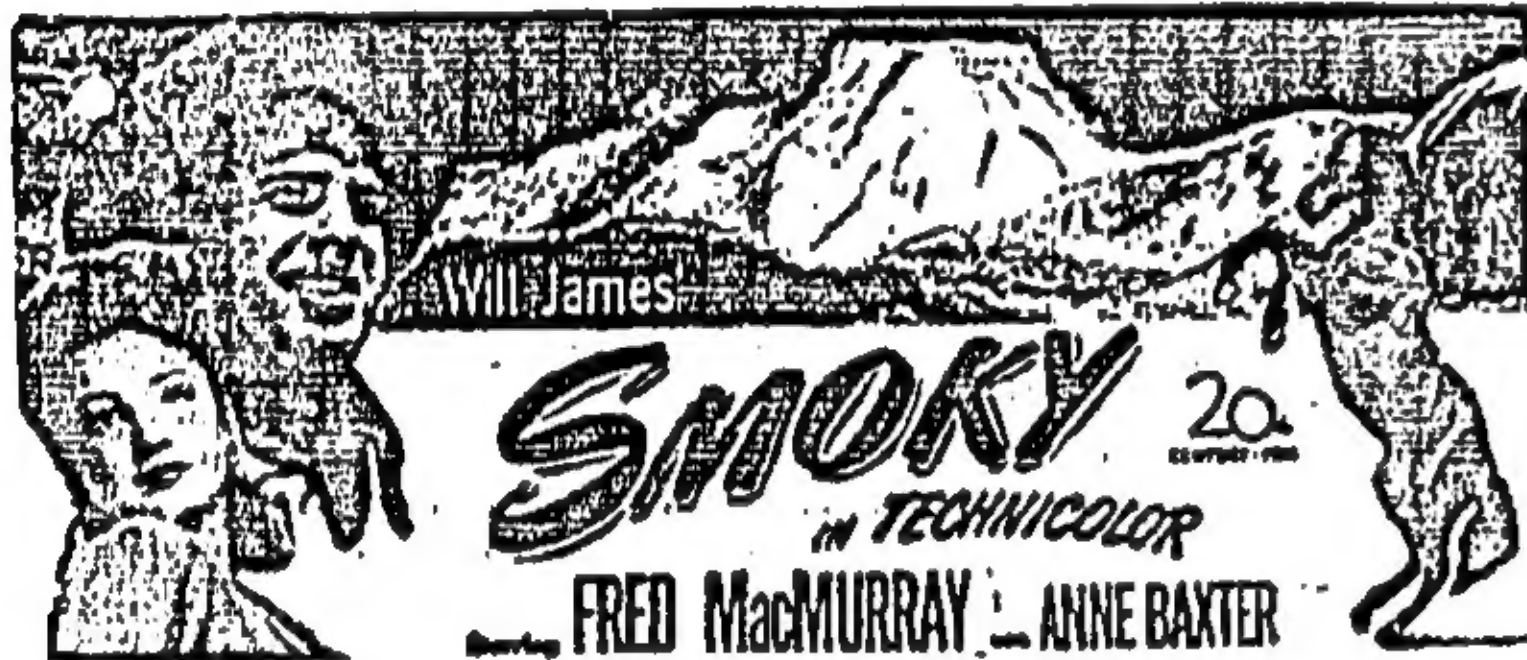
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COMING TO THE KING'S

## THIS MAN ON THE RUN

by SEFTON DELMER

London, Nov. 4. I SAT last night in a little back room of a suburban villa in Kenton talking to Stanislaw Mikolajczyk. The other reporters had left and we were on our own.

And as we talked I thought back to those last days before Poland's General Election in January this year, when I used to see him almost every evening.

I used to go to Warsaw's Aleja Sucha, where he had a flat in an apartment house reserved for Ministers and V.I.P.s. His confidential secretary, Maria Hulewicz—she has escaped from Poland with him—would let me in, and after she had brought coffee and cake Mikolajczyk would talk.

In almost every conversation the moment would come when Mikolajczyk would say: "Yes, after the elections we shall be for it. It will be just a question of time. Sooner or later they will liquidate the party—and me."

The Government, he said, would arrest, first, some of his followers, get "confessions" from them, and then they would get him. "They'll probably accuse me of high treason, selling State secrets to the British and the Americans."

Well, his prophecy has been proved right—all except the last part about himself.

In August and September Poland's Communist Government staged a big spotlighted treason trial in Cracow.

Among the accused were friends and associates of Mikolajczyk, fellow members of his large Polish Peasant Party. Again and again charges were made and evidence brought forward implicating Mikolajczyk.

### Re-arrests

IT seemed likely that he was destined to share the fate of Nicolas Petkov, peasant leader of Bulgaria, tried for treason and executed, of Rumania's peasant leader Julius Maniu, and Yugoslavia's peasant leader Jovanovic, now jailed for nine years.

"They were rearresting nearly all the people they had released under the amnesty after the election," he said. "The textile workers had gone on strike in Lodz. The tension was growing daily. Had I been arrested it might have caused a rising."

This is not the first time that tough, bull-necked, blue-eyed Stanislaw Mikolajczyk has been on the run.

He was born near Poznan, in the part of Poland annexed by the Prussians, in 1793, on a previous occasion when Germans and Russians partitioned Poland between

them. And when the war of 1914-18 came he took part in Poland's fight against the Germans. After the war he came back to the little peasant homestead his father—a miner—had built out of his savings.

Soon Mikolajczyk, slow spoken, shrewd and desperately honest, was representing the peasants of his district. And in 1937 it was Mikolajczyk who led the peasants' strike against the dictatorial Pilsudski regime.

When Poland was overrun by the Germans during the last war, Mikolajczyk managed to escape, first to France, and then to Britain, where he joined the Polish exiled Government.

In the meantime, the Russians, after joining with the Germans in Poland in 1939, and deporting a million Poles to Russia, had been attacked themselves. They formed a rival Polish Government in Moscow. The Kremlin meant to put this Government into power when they got to Poland, so that, safe in Communist hands, Poland should never again form the jumping-off point of an invasion of Soviet Russia.

The National Committee challenged the authority of the London Government. The Kremlin broke off relations with the Londoners.

### Premier

BRITAIN and the United States, in the interests of unity among the Allies, pressed for a compromise. Mr. Mikolajczyk, who, by this time, had become the Premier of the London Government, flew at British and American request to Moscow.

Mikolajczyk had several talks with Stalin. He liked him. As he told me in many of our talks, he was impressed with the Russian's straightforward sincerity and honesty of purpose.

An agreement was reached that the Polish Government, which, in the meantime, had been set up in Poland by the Russians should be broadened to include representatives of the London Government. As soon as possible "free, unfettered elections" were to be held on the basis of which a new Government was to be constituted.

Despite opposition from the more suspicious London Poles, Mikolajczyk flew to Poland and joined the new Polish Government as deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Agriculture.

But soon Mikolajczyk and his party, while still officially part of the coalition, were driven into opposition.

The newspapers were censored or suppressed, their party officials arrested, and the elections—as I was able to see for myself—were so arranged as to ensure a crushing majority for the Communists and their allies.

### Opposition

NOW Mikolajczyk is back in Britain, back where he started from in 1943.

If he is not allowed to carry on from here his opposition to the present regime in Poland, then I have no doubt he will move to some other place where he can.

Of one thing I am certain, and all he said to me last night confirms it: Mikolajczyk has not left Poland simply to save his life. He has left because he thinks he can fight better from outside.

## BY THE WAY by Beachcomber

I LEARN that, in a last desperate attempt to solve the whole thing, the Government has sent for Madame Zaphroma, the Seer who can see future Plans in the entrails of ferrets killed under a full moon, and can deduce deductions from arrangements of pebbles. *Nec Babylonias temparis numeris* was never written of Zaphroma, who lives on the windy edge of Dunton hill, arranging her pebbles in patterns and eating largely of a kind of nettle-broth which she brews in a vast cauldron. She is said to be an indirect descendant of the renowned Sibyl of Panzoust, whose solitary tooth is preserved in the castle of Azav-le-Rideau.

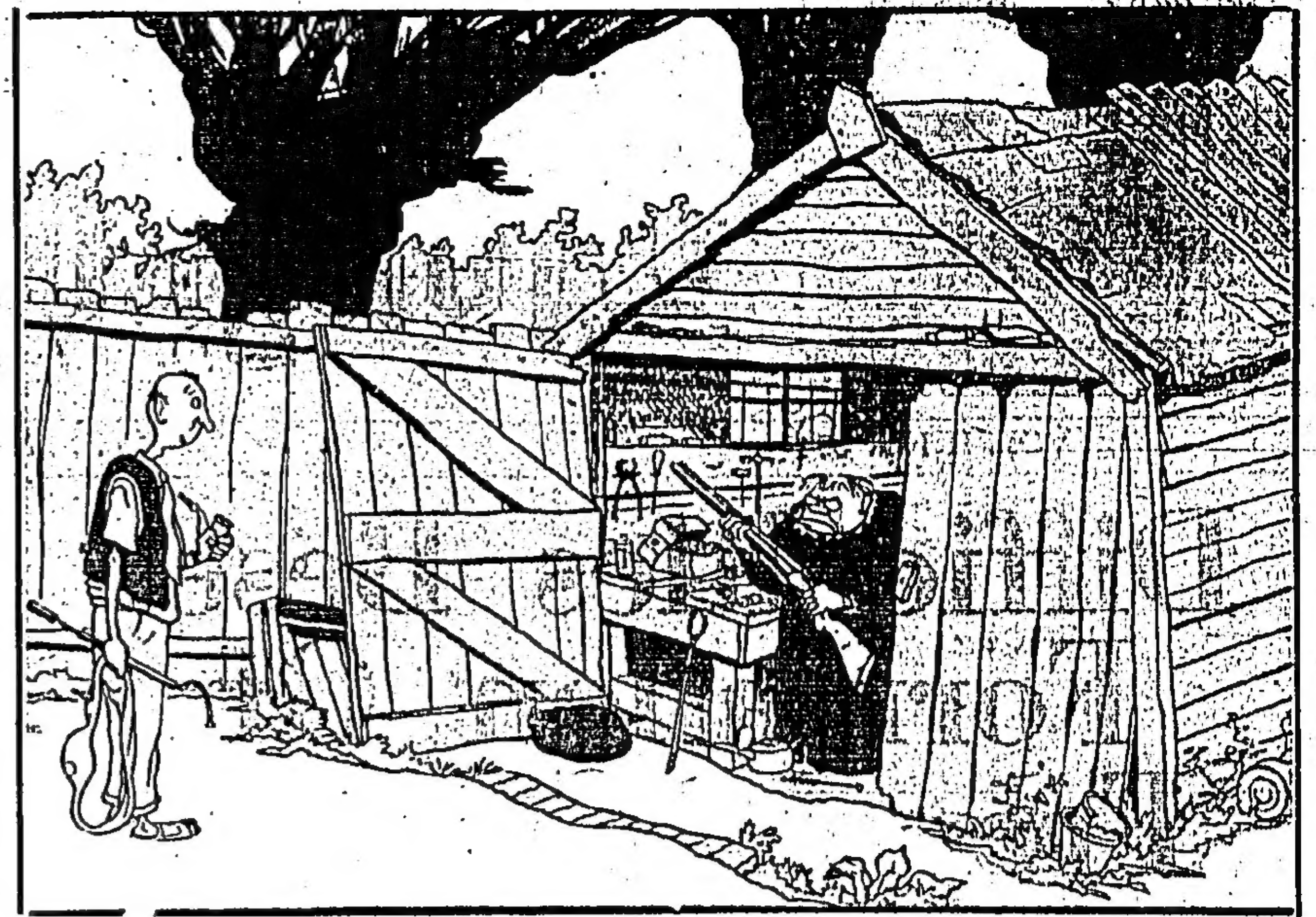
### Dark sayings

ZAPHROMA is a woman of many words, all unintelligible. To the last politician who consulted her about the whole thing, she said: "When Sirius has entered the fourth parallel of the Egnos, with Carthage for a grant in the grocer's beard, and Merphor below, zum, zum, zum, he who blows hot or cold will blow nought but dirty feathers, until Dragomarte be come to Merthyr Tydyl, hocne, hocne, lest any slubberdegullion take to himself as much beetroot as would cover the collarbone of a Polegate newt."

### Hogwasch

HOGWASCH has sent the following letter to the Press:

"The possibility that England will be faced up with the future deprivation of American films prompts me to ask what is the good of all this talk about preserving culture in this thrilling crisis of civilisation if the educated public is to be cut off from such a source of knowledge and emotion as is conveyed to it in the amazing, terrifying, appealing, pleasurable features in the American films. The international friendship through culture relations, can't be done by closing the cinema doors to epics of whatever nation-state."



"Who are we gunning for today, grandma—imperialist warmongers or Russian bogeys?"

## THE BBC'S 25TH BIRTHDAY

IT was as foggy that day. When the papers came that Tuesday morning, November 14, 1922, the news was all about the next day's General Election, and not one reader in 1,500 bothered much about a middle-page item, "Broadcasting Tonight."

Even Arthur Burrows, as he left his New Southgate villa at 8 a.m. and journeyed slowly through the fog, saw nothing different in the day's work ahead of him at Marconi House.

Yet for 20,000 listeners with radio sets marked "Officially approved," Arthur Burrows, practically was the B.B.C., along with Stanton Jefferies, who had buttoned up his grey spats and was on his way to the Strand from the other side of London.

What about John Charles Walsham Reith, the great director-general... the aloof "dictator" who forced the B.B.C. into power? Where was he?

He was wondering whether he would get the job of general manager to the British Broadcasting Company, still being planned. He thought he had a good chance. He was an Aberdonian... so was Sir William Noble, chairman of the Broadcasting Committee which was busy short-listing the 395 replies to their small advertisement for staff.

First job was to make room for Captain Reith on the second floor of Magnet House, Kingsway, 400 yards from the 2LO studio. There would be just room for him to sit there, sharing table and telephone with Major Percy Anderson, another ex-Army officer who



Arthur Burrows

was waiting to hear if he would be the B.B.C. secretary.

"I remember them well," says Mr. Albert Griggs, house engineer at Magnet House. "Captain Reith was the man in charge, Major Anderson was his assistant. It seemed funny according to their ranks—the boot was on the wrong foot."

Anderson's first job, by the way, was to engage a typist. Mr. Griggs knew about this when he got a scribbled note—"Could you please arrange for another cup of tea to be sent to us from next Monday?" It was signed J. C. Reith.

### Till noon

UP on the seventh floor of Marconi House, in the Strand, Arthur Burrows opened the mail, then phoned through to the electric supply company about the 200-volt current for 2LO's 1½-kilowatt transmitter. (The ones in use now are 100-kilowatt.)

Stanton Jefferies was caught by an accordionist. "I had him playing for 40 minutes in the studio-cum-office where I was holding auditions. Believe it or not, I forgot him. There was so much noise from engineers testing circuits, office-keepers unpacking crates, and workmen banging nails to hold up the sound-deadening ex-Army blankets."

At the same time on this day up in Birmingham 40 painters and carpenters were getting a studio ready in a continued-off portion of the central stores shed of the General Electric factory at Whitton. This was to be the Birmingham station of the B.B.C.

Percy Edgar (now Midlands director) was in charge. The only B.B.C. man who has been in the same job right from the beginning. He was worried because at that time the way into the studio was through the men's cloakroom. At lunch time, Mr. Geoffrey Isaacs, one of the Broadcasting Committee members, ran into an employee named Clarkson in the doorway of Marconi House. He stopped him and said: "They tell me you play the

piano rather well—do you think you could come and play Beethoven's Sonata Pathétique?" Clarkson said "Yes," but he never heard any more about it.

At 6 o'clock in London there was a two-minute tuning signal. "It came from an organ pipe," says Stanton Jefferies. "The trouble was it would keep fading away like a waiting pig."

After the tuning signal Arthur Burrows came to the microphone. His first words on that first day of regular broadcasting were: "This is 2LO calling—the Marconi Company broadcasting on behalf of the Broadcasting Committee."

"Here is the general weather situation based on the latest report from the Meteorological Office: An anti-cyclone now centred over the British Isles is tending to move northward. Fair settled conditions are probable generally with mist or fog inland."

He gave a three-minute news summary... the situation at Constantinople... Lord Curzon's probable visit to Paris... Mr. Borar Law in Glasgow... and Mr. Lloyd George in Lancashire on a cyclotron tour. He ended with a note to music-hall patrons as the "Whitney-Kaffir" died at Streatham this morning, aged 68."

Only five minutes' broadcasting was allowed at a time, then there had to be a three-minute interval in case the Government wanted to put out an SOS.

### At 6.30

JUST on half-past six somebody popped his head in the studio and said he was going down Fleet-street to St. Bride Institute, where Mr. H. A. Hanky, an ex-Fleet radio officer, was giving a lecture on "Broadcasting" at 6.45 p.m.

Jefferies and Burrows talked again about getting some chimes that day. They felt that it was not a good enough makeshift to make different notes by tapping glasses partly filled with water.

Mrs. Burrows had not listened in to him... she had been too busy putting the three children, two boys and a girl, to bed. But she managed to listen next night to the General Election results, which showed the Tories were in power under Bonar Law (Mr. Churchill lost his seat at Dundee).

Tests on November 14 showed that the aerial from the flagstaff pole at Birmingham was too loose... the wave-length kept changing as the aerial swung in the wind.

### Closing down

AT half-past eight Britain's licensed listener put on their headphones, adjusted cat's whiskers and hushed anyone who was making a noise.

For Tuesday evening at 8.30 was the hour when the B.B.C.'s rival came on the air from the Marconi station at Writtle, Essex. Every week it gave a gay, informal, musical programme for half an hour.

It was a nuisance for the B.B.C. From that very first day, listeners rang the B.B.C. asking: "Could you close down? You are interfering with Writtle."

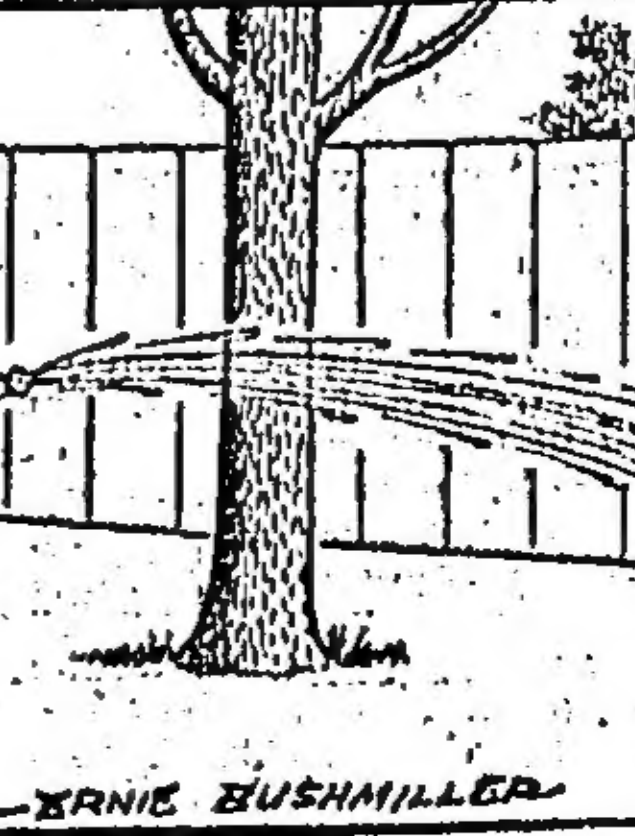
Then Mr. Burrows read the 9 p.m. news and weather report, and went home early—because of the fog.

JAMES BARTLETT

### NANCY New Twist



### By Ernie Bushmiller



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SKIN PEP  
AFTER SHAVE LOTION  
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SMILE HAPPY  
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SOLE AGENTS: NAN KANG CO., UNION BLDG. H.K.



## Women

This Space Every Day

### BEAUTY ARTS

By LOIS LEEDS



Posed by Brenda Joyce for Lois Leeds.

Lois Leeds gives the answers to your Beauty Problems

#### "DEAR LOIS LEEDS"

"Dear Lois Leeds—Would a powder foundation cream keep my only skin from shining?—L. LEE."

No, because cream isn't what your skin needs. A liquid lotion will absorb the oil and give a mat finish under your powder. But what you REALLY need is a little concentration on skin care. First, look into your diet, perhaps it's too heavy and rich. Your skin needs soap and water cleansing. Your scalp needs massage to stimulate circulation and you need lots of sunshine.

"Dear Lois Leeds—I am a brunette, with fair skin. I have a brown suit, a yellow blouse. My dark blushed lipstick doesn't look right. What would you suggest?—L. B."

You need a new shade in lipstick. Choose a clear, vivid scarlet, which has just a hint of yellow and don't use face powder, which has a pink cast. Real Rachel, or Beige, is most flattering.

"Dear Lois Leeds—What is meant by pore cream?—T. L. Y."

Pore cream is usually an astringent type of preparation which is used to refine coarse pores and stimulate sluggish skin circulation. It is an excellent preparation for rough, coarse and overly-oily conditions.

"Dear Lois Leeds—How can warts be removed?—S. S."

By surgery, usually, but you must consult a physician. Don't tamper with warts and don't try home remedies to remove them.

"Dear Lois Leeds—My lips crack so much in the wind. What should I do?—D. A."

Use a white pomade on you lips under lipstick and over it, also.

#### Office-To-Date Dress



A bright career-conscious dress is this checked wool-on-brown number worn by Martha Scott, who co-stars with John Mills, Patricia Roc, Trevor Howard and Richard Carlson in the RKO Radio-J. Arthur Rank production, "So Well Remembered." In one piece, it has full lines and sleeves. Brown-and-white checked patchwork goes around in squares as well as circles over bodice, neck and sleeves. Marvellous to wear in conference, to interviews or for sitting behind a desk, it requires little upkeep and will look ritzy at lunch or dinner with tastefully-selected accessories. For example: a brown or green felt hat, a wide belt, a smart carry-all-bag.

#### SIDE GLANCES

By Galbraith



"If the grades seem too low, why can't we parents provide little prizes for the teachers whose pupils get the highest marks?"

## Land Seizures By Austrian Peasants

Thousands of land-hungry Austrian peasants, led by Communist Party officials in the Russian occupation zone, are taking part in what is known as a "wild" or illegal "land reform."

The procedure is simple. A Communist official, backed by a large group of peasants, goes to the owner of a big estate and says: "You must give us so many acres of land to divide up among the peasants."

If the owner agrees, the peasants get their land, which is then divided up among them. If the owner refuses, then the peasants seize the land, divide it, occupy it and defy the landowner to turn them out.

## India's Air Liners Set Up Safety Mark

Indian air lines have established a new world safety record, according to statistics of the Civil Aviation Department of the Indian Government.

Only two passenger fatalities occurred in nearly 5,000,000 miles of air travel.

The report showed an increase of 80 per cent in passenger traffic, with 121,000 passengers carried during the first half of this year. During the past six months nearly twice as much air freight was handled by India's air lines as was carried during the whole of 1946.

The majority of the commercial planes in use are twin-engined Douglas DC-3's, plus a few British Vikings.

All larger cities of India are linked with a network of air lines surveyed and supervised by the Civil Aviation Department.

India's air lines played an important part in evacuating the refugees from the riot-stricken areas. Schedules were tripled and quadrupled in many instances to handle the heavy increase in passengers, most of whom had never been inside an aeroplane.

## Emotional Ills Of Americans

At least half the Americans who consult doctors have complaints which are emotional rather than physical.

Dr Joseph Wearn, in an article in the American Medical Association Journal, says psychiatry should be studied and practiced by all doctors.

Dr Wearn commented: "Medical schools still put more emphasis on factors causing disintegration of bacteria than on those which cause disintegration of personality."

"Closely related in remote hospitals, psychiatrists seem content to indulge in their own inconclusive factional controversies and show little interest in communicating their knowledge to other members of the medical profession."

America's psychiatrists, says Wearn, can cope with only a fraction of cases.

## MAN WORE SKIRTS FOR 85 YEARS

The current fashion battle of the hemline doesn't worry 85-year-old Nellie, Jessie Reid, of Charlton, Ontario.

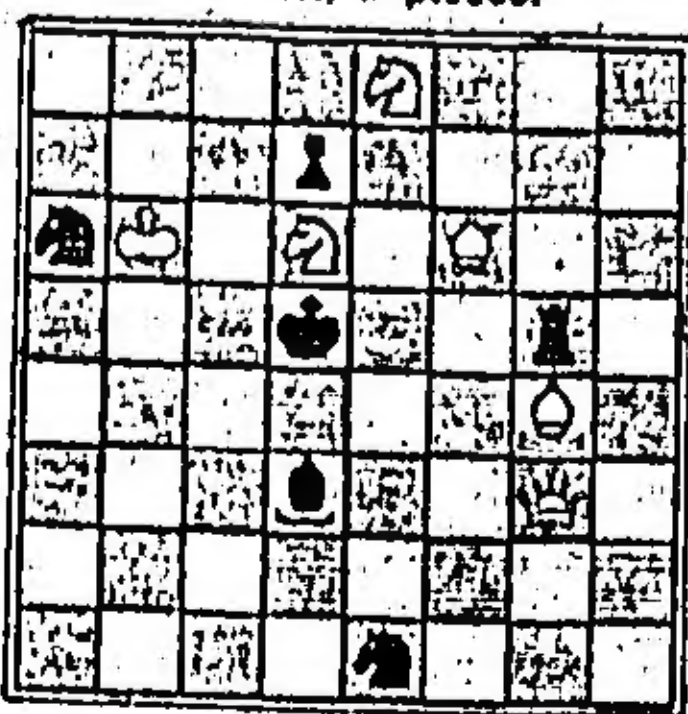
A bachelor, he has worn ankle-length skirts, bustles and bonnets all his life, because his mother decided to raise her sixth son as a daughter.

Nellie worked as a lumberman, a farmer, a construction hand, and a railway fireman in feminine attire of 1860 style—long skirts, frilled sleeves and crocheted cuffs.

He is now an old-age pensioner.

## CHESS PROBLEM

By F. GAMAGE  
Black, 6 pieces.



White, 6 pieces.

White to play and mate in two.

Solution: To Saturday's problem:

1. Q-Kt4. 1... B-XQ:2.

R-K3 (ch). 2... B-XQ:2.

Q-B (ch). 3... B-Q4. X-P.

2. Q-XRP (ch). 1... R-B3.

2. R-B1.

Efficiently organised by Communist Party officials, the movement threatens to spread to all parts of lower Austria, and to become an acute national question.

Communist speakers have claimed that neither of the other two political parties—the People's Party, which is slightly larger, or the Socialist Party, which is growing rapidly—are prepared to bring about immediate land reform.

Therefore, it was urged that the peasants must take matters into their own hands and, with the aid of the Communist Party, carry through a land reform of their own on the spot.

Enthusiastic at the prospect of getting land, thousands of peasants are prepared to take part in the movement.

#### Cabinet Opposed

In the meantime, the People's Party, which represents the land-owning element of the Austrian population, has set itself strongly against this "wild land reform" and the Socialist Party, while not against the land reform in itself, has declared itself against this illegal seizure of land.

The Austrian Cabinet has condemned the movement and has given the Minister of Agriculture power to deal with the situation with a view to restoring to its lawful owners the land which has been seized.

The lower Austrian provincial government held a special session to deal with the movement.

As a result, it instructed district authorities to inform all mayors that they should advise the population not to take part in such unlawful confiscation of land, as otherwise they will be guilty of a punishable offence.

#### Growing Danger

There is a growing danger of clashes between the peasants, who have been promised land by the Communist officials and set out to take it, and the gendarmes, who are being sent to the district to keep order.

It will be serious when, and if the local police try to take back from the peasants the land which had been confiscated in order to restore it to its lawful owners.

The police, however, are slow to act in the Russian-occupied zone unless they are sure that the Soviet authorities will not oppose them.

So far, the Soviet authorities have refused to state their attitude to this arbitrary "land reform." Even if the Soviet authorities remain strictly neutral, the Government may have difficulty in carrying out its policy in the face of the opposition of thousands of land-hungry peasants, whose appetite has been whetted by this taste of land ownership.—Reuter.

## Rupert and the Three Guides—30



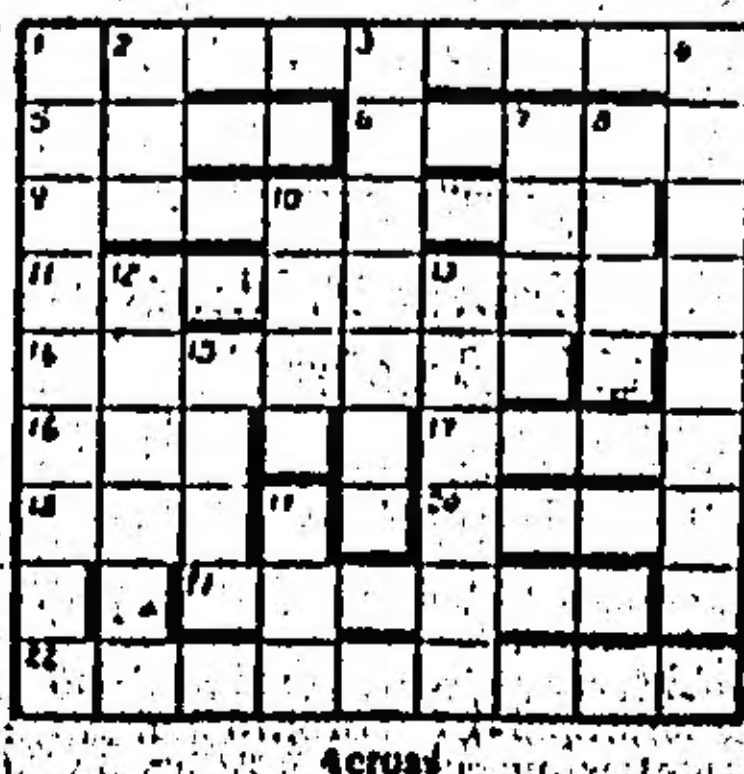
Rupert tries to tell Beryl and Janet about the gipsy's words, but they are so excited about their new discovery that he runs along with them and, sure enough, they soon find the third Guide waiting for them.

"Hallo, Rupert, fancy finding you again," cried Pauline. "Do come and listen to the tree." "What do you mean, listen to the tree?" says Rupert. Then he gazes round.

"Why, this is the very tree," he shouts. "It's where I met the gipsy!"

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## CROSSWORD PUZZLE



Down: (1) 6. Unemployed. (5) 9. Do! Shall we say? (6) 10. Hand Vero into the shelter (8) 11. Good. (12) 13. Unusually makes Cain cry. (7) 14. The anger of fireworks. (8) 15. Fifty more and you get it from the local. (16) 17. Lower. (18) 19. A national hall. (4) 20. Not a question? (4) 21. Cinema seats perhaps. (5-3) 22. Met Satan's temptation. (6)

Across: (1) 1. Slightly happy and carefree. (2) 3. Arch in a way. (7) 4. Something worn that gutters. (10) 5. I can give the murderer. (4) 6. A national hall. (4) 7. A broken wing gives it. (4) 8. What a built-up is. (6) 9. The name of touch. (6) 10. Chubby. (4) 11. Half of a half wit. (4)



## McKENNEY ON BRIDGE

Wrong Play May Turn Out Right

By WILLIAM E. MCKENNEY

♠ 7542	♥ 65	♦ 85	♣ A97
♠ 10063	♥ 103	♦ 74	♣ 107542
♠ 10063	♥ 103	♦ 74	♣ 107542
♠ 10063	♥ 103	♦ 74	♣ 107542
♠ 10063	♥ 103	♦ 74	♣ 107542
♠ 10063	♥ 103	♦ 74	♣ 107542
♠ 10063	♥ 103	♦ 74	♣ 107542
♠ 10063	♥ 103	♦ 74	♣ 107542

WE have not heard from our friend Sylvia for a long time. Sylvia is the girl who always does the wrong thing, but it always works out right. Here is one of her hands for you.

On the opening spade lead East went up with the ace and Sylvia (South) dropped the king. East returned a small heart and Sylvia won with the jack. Now she realised that if the king of diamonds was on her left, she was all right; but if she led a diamond and East won, undoubtedly he would return another trump—and Sylvia would not be able to trump any diamonds. At this point she led the jack of spades, then took three rounds of trumps.

Now she had one entry into dummy, the ace of clubs, and then she could discard a diamond on the queen of spades. But she still would lose three diamond tricks. Should she lead toward the queen of diamonds and hope that the king was on her left? Not Sylvia. She led the eight of clubs and played the jack from dummy. East won, and he had to put Sylvia back into the dummy. A club return allowed her to discard two diamonds on the ace and queen of clubs, and another one on the queen of spades. Thus she lost a spade, a diamond and a club.

## Check Your Knowledge

1. Which cards in a deck of playing cards have only one eye?
2. Name the first book of the Bible.
3. If you were visiting the "Land of the Midnight Sun" where would you be?
4. What is the meaning of "Sic transit gloria mundi"?
5. What part of a ship is the jib?
6. Name the author of "The Three Musketeers."

(Answers on Page 4)

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